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Sen. Cameron Brown to Hold Emerald Ash Borer Town Hall Meeting in Adrian
Monday, Oct. 27 event to feature plant pathologist who first identified pest

FRIDAY, October 17, 2003 – Senator Cameron S. Brown has scheduled a town hall meeting in Adrian to address the Emerald Ash Borer pest that has damaged and killed millions of trees in Michigan and is threatening Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties.

The town hall meeting will take place Monday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. in the Dominican Hall Auditorium at Siena Heights University, 1247 E. Siena Heights Drive, Adrian.

“The Emerald Ash Borer is a threat to the well-being of our trees throughout the state and now is threatening Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties,” said Brown, a Fawn River Township Republican. “By bringing an expert like Dr. David Roberts and state officials on site for a give-and-take discussion we can begin to understand what steps need to be taken to protect our ash trees.”

To address this problem, Brown has invited Dr. Roberts, a plant pathologist at Michigan State University who discovered the Emerald Ash Borer invader, and officials from the Michigan Department of Agriculture who are working on the Emerald Ash Borer problem. There are 700 million ash trees at risk statewide, and 28 million in Southeast Michigan.

“Lenawee and Hillsdale County residents need to realize that they are surrounded on three sides by counties with the Emerald Ash Borer,” said Bob Bricault, a Horticulture Agent from MSU Extension involved with Emerald Ash Borer education. “This is a serious problem, but there are some steps that homeowners can take now to protect their ash trees. Dr. Roberts is an expert on Emerald Ash Borer and can provide residents with information about how to identify, protect trees when needed, and how to dispose of infected trees properly.”

Dr. Roberts will give a presentation on his discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer and his experience as a lead researcher on the problem and the effort to find a means to control its spread. Following Dr. Roberts presentation, the town hall meeting will open for questions and answers from the audience.

Emerald Ash Borer disease was discovered in June of 2002, and spread through southeast Michigan after being carried over from Asia, most likely on a shipping boat. The aggressive beetle’s larvae feed on the inner bark and outer sapwood of ash trees, and either severely damage or kill the tree.

Brown has worked with the Hillsdale and Lenawee County MSU Extension offices to invite master gardeners and other professionals who are on the frontline battle against the Emerald Ash Borer.

The event is open to the public and admission is free of charge.